

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 20 October 2010. As directed by the amendment: Claims 1, 9, and 24 have been amended, Claims 7, 11, 13-14, 18-20, 22-23, and 29 have been cancelled, and no claims have been added. Thus, Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12, 15-17, 21, 24-28, and 30 are presently pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Verga on 3 November 2010.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

5. In Claim 21, Line 19, replace, "by the spring and so" to "by the spring and to"

6. Replace the Abstract with:

A mechanism for attaching a component, such as a speech processor unit of a cochlear implant, to the clothing of a user of that component. The attaching mechanism is operable by an unlocking device, such as a magnet that can be held in the possession of a person other than the person wearing the clothing to which the component is mounted. The attachment device can comprise an elongate pin member that is adapted

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to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing and be received in a chamber and held by frictional engagement therein.

Allowable Subject Matter/Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

7. The Prior Art of Record nor other prior art discloses the specific clip structure as claimed in independent Claims 1, 21, and 24 for the external component of a cochlear implant. Dependent Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12, 15-17, 25-28, and 30 further narrow the independent claims are therefore are also allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pamela M. Bays whose telephone number is (571)270-7852. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl H. Layno can be reached on (571)272-4949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Carl H. Layno/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3766

/P. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 3766